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E.O. 12958: N/A  
TAGS: [PREF](#) [PREL](#) [OTRA](#) [SOCI](#) [MZ](#)  
SUBJ: COUNTRY CLEARANCE GRANTED FOR PERLITA MUIRURI,  
PRM OFFICER, TO TRAVEL TO MOZAMBIQUE

REF: SECSTATE WASHDC 153588

¶1. Embassy Maputo welcomes and grants provisional country clearance for Perlita Muiruri to travel to Mozambique from September 17 through September 26, 2006 to participate in a special session of the conference of African Ministers of Health on sexual and reproductive health. This clearance is conditional upon the stipulations cited in paragraph 4. Please advise as soon as possible regarding any schedule or itinerary changes; refer to paragraph 7 regarding visa requirements.

Please advise as soon as possible regarding any schedule or itinerary changes; refer to para 8 regarding visa requirements.

¶2. Control Officer:

John Wysham, Chief Econ/Commercial Officer at the Embassy, will be the control officer. He can be contacted at:

-- Office telephone: (258) 2149-27-97, ext.3425  
-- Office fax: (258) 2149-35-74  
-- Cellular: (258) 82-315-7170

¶3. Hotel Reservations:

Post has made hotel reservations at the Polana Hotel. The rate for a single room is USD\$120.00, which includes a breakfast buffet. Maputo per diem is currently USD\$224.00 (lodging USD\$146 and meals/incidentals USD\$78). The hotel accepts U.S. Dollars or South African Rand; Diners Club, VISA, MasterCard, or American Express credit cards for payment of hotel bills.

The hotel can be contacted at:

-- Telephone: (258) 21 49-10-01  
-- Fax: (258) 21 49-14-80  
-- E-Mail [res@polana-hotel.com](mailto:res@polana-hotel.com)

Reservation Policy: Hotels charge for no-shows and most will debit one day's room rate for no-shows and reservations canceled with less than twenty-four hours' notice prior to arrival. Therefore, advance planning and prompt notification of changes well in advance of the twenty-four hour limit are necessary otherwise such charges will be assessed to the intended traveler. Please contact your control officer promptly with details of any changes.

Expeditor will pick-up and drop off at airport. All other logistical requirements have been arranged.

¶4. Medical Services: Maputo has limited medical facilities. Visitors will have to be medevaced in the event of a major injury or illness. In the past, we

have had visitors nearly die because details of their medevac insurance were not readily available. Post is therefore very strict in not granting country clearance unless we are assured that the traveler is adequately covered if a medevac is required.

Direct Hire employees (not contractors) of the Department of State, USAID, Department of Defense, CDC, and Peace Corps have country clearance and need not take any further action. Direct Hire employees of other U.S. Government Agencies must provide their control officer by cable or e-mail a name and 24-hour point of contact for their agency that can authorize medical evacuation. Country Clearance is granted upon receipt of that information.

The USG does not cover contract employees for medevac. Therefore, all USG contractors (regardless of the government agency they are contracted to) must provide their control officer prior to arrival the name, phone number, and policy number of their medevac insurance provider(s) for use in case of emergency. Country clearance will not be granted to contractors without medevac insurance.

Post has been provided the required medevac information.

**15. CONSULAR REGISTRATION:** ALL TDY VISITORS SPENDING MORE THAN TWO WORKDAYS IN MAPUTO ARE REQUIRED TO REGISTER WITH THE CONSULAR SECTION IN THE CHANCERY TO ENSURE THAT THE MISSION HAS CURRENT EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION FOR EACH VISITOR.

**16. Financial Matters:** With the exception of the main

hotels in Maputo, Maputo is essentially a cash economy. Credit cards are of limited utility. Vendors will accept U.S. dollars (or South African rand) in lieu of the local currency, the metical. For a day trip to Maputo, we recommend visitors bring with them USD 100 in cash for spending money. Dollars can be exchanged at any bank or currency exchange facility. Embassy Maputo recommends against the use of travelers checks, as transaction charges are uniformly high. Please note that Embassy Maputo will need fiscal data in the event that extensive services or goods are required during the visit. There are no currency import/export restrictions in effect at this time. Mozambican Airlines (LAM) accepts the American Express credit card. Please note that charge limits are in effect on most credit card transactions, and hotel bills need to be settled every few days. Mozambique recently introduced its new currency: the New Metical (abbreviated MTn.) This currency replaces the Metical (MT.) One New Metical is equivalent to 1,000 Meticals (1 MTn = 1,000 MT.) As a point of reference and at today's exchange rates, 1 USD equals approximately 25 MTn and 25,000 MT. From July 1st, 2006 through December 31st, 2006, both currencies are in circulation, and all prices are expressed in both currencies. After December 31st, 2006, only the New Metical will be in circulation. Visitors to Mozambique should be aware of the difference between the two currencies while they are both in circulation. The only obvious difference to those unfamiliar with Mozambican currency is that the New Metical has three fewer zeros. The largest New Metical note is 1,000 MTn (versus 500,000 MT.) The smallest New Metical note is 20 MTn (versus 10,000 MT.) For further guidance please refer to the images of the New Metical on our intranet site at <http://maputo.state.gov/Sections/FMO/fmo.htm>

**17. Visas:** Visas are required for entry into Mozambique, and the US Embassy Maputo urges travelers to have them prior to traveling. Travelers arriving from a country without a Mozambican embassy can get

visas at the airport or land border entry points for 20 USD or 300 MTn.

Those arriving from a country with a Mozambican embassy can obtain visas at the airport or land border entry points for 25 USD. Diplomatic visitors without visas will have their passports held pending processing of a visa, which requires Embassy Maputo to process a diplomatic note.

There is an airport departure tax payable only in cash, of 10 USD or equivalent in Metical or Rand for regional flights, and 20 USD for Intercontinental.

**18. Security/Threat Assessment:** The biggest threat facing U.S. citizens visiting Mozambique is crime. The State Department has designated Mozambique a critical-threat post for crime. Street crime and vehicle hijackings are common and can be violent. Visitors must be vigilant when out in public areas and should not display jewelry or other items of high value. Visitors should avoid carrying backpacks or purses, as these can draw unwanted attention of would-be muggers. Isolated areas, such as along the Marginal (the area along the sea), should be avoided as joggers and pedestrians have been mugged frequently, even during daylight hours.

THERE ARE NO KNOWN TERRORIST GROUPS ACTIVE IN MOZAMBIQUE AND NO CURRENT INDICATIONS THAT U.S. CITIZENS ARE BEING TARGETED BY TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS.

THE POLICE ARE POORLY PAID, POORLY EQUIPPED, AND LACK THE PROFESSIONALISM THAT U.S. CITIZENS ARE ACCUSTOMED TO IN THE UNITED STATES. VISITORS REQUIRING EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE SHOULD NOT RELY ON LOCAL EMERGENCY SERVICES, BUT SHOULD CONTACT THE MARINE SECURITY GUARD AT POST ONE AT (01) 49-07-23. MOZAMBIKAN LAW REQUIRES THAT ALL PERSONS CARRY AN IDENTITY DOCUMENT, SUCH AS A PASSPORT, WHEN OUT IN PUBLIC AND PRODUCE IT IF REQUESTED BY POLICE. A COPY OF PASSPORT IDENTITY AND VISA PAGES IS ACCEPTABLE. THERE ARE CERTAIN AREAS IN THE CITY OF MAPUTO WHERE PEDESTRIAN TRAFFIC IS PROHIBITED, E.G., IN FRONT OF THE PRESIDENTIAL OFFICES LOCATED NORTH OF THE HOTEL POLANA ON THE SEASIDE OF AVENIDA JULIUS NYERERE.

OVERLAND TRAVEL AFTER DARK IS EXTREMELY DANGEROUS DUE TO POOR ROAD CONDITIONS, LACK OF EMERGENCY SERVICES, AND THE INCREASED POTENTIAL FOR VEHICLE HIJACKINGS. OFFICIAL AMERICANS SERVING IN MOZAMBIQUE ARE PROHIBITED FROM OVERLAND TRAVEL OUTSIDE CITY LIMITS DURING THE HOURS OF DARKNESS.

TDY VISITORS SPENDING MORE THAN TWO WORKDAYS IN

MOZAMBIQUE MUST SCHEDULE A SECURITY BRIEFING WITH THE REGIONAL SECURITY OFFICER.

**19. Transiting Johannesburg Airport.** Post urges travelers to keep in mind restrictions on carry-on luggage on international flights (at present no liquids, gels, or cosmetics are permitted to be carried on board international flights leaving the United States). Travelers also should bear in mind that security of checked baggage is a significant problem for travelers who transit Johannesburg airport. Many items have been stolen from checked bags, including the checked bags themselves. The items stolen most often are electronics (including I-Pods, cameras, and alarm clocks), toiletries (such as cosmetics, soap, shaving kits and cologne) and shoes (especially expensive running/athletic shoes). A LOCKED BAG DOES NOT ENSURE SECURITY. One security measure that seems to meet with some success is to have your luggage stretch-wrapped at your point of departure. The stretch-wrapping makes it more difficult for the thieves to gain access to your luggage. Be aware that flights between Johannesburg and Maputo are often serviced by a small plane with little space for carry-on luggage. This may require passengers to check their larger carry-on items. Please

ensure your valuables are kept in a bag small enough to carry on your lap to keep them with you at all times. We take this problem very seriously and are doing what we can to help aid a solution. In brief, please:

- Leave behind irreplaceable valuables;
- Always lock your bags;
- Have your luggage stretch-wrapped when possible;
- Keep your valuables with you in a small carry-on;
- Make sure that your carry-on luggage complies with current international restrictions/regulations.

¶10. Health: Travelers are advised that chloroquine resistant malaria is present in Mozambique. The most recent guidance from the Department of State Medical Office recommends weekly use of mefloquine as the drug of choice for malaria prophylaxis in chloroquine-resistant areas. Mefloquine must be started one to two weeks before arriving at post. Daily doxycycline is an alternative regimen. Doxycycline must be started three days before arriving at post. Both malaria prophylaxis medications must be continued for four weeks after departing post.

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